ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a patient record including a digital vital patient record (VPR) storing essential predetermined information for a patient, and a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) storing routine information and essential information, wherein the information in the VPR takes precedence over corresponding information in the HCPR. Preferably, the HCPR is stored in a designated storage area, and a printout of the VPR is added to the HCPR each time the HCPR is retrieved from the storage area. Moreover, the HCPR is stored in a designated storage area, and the printout of the VPR corresponds to a request to retrieve the HCPR from the storage area. A method and corresponding software for maintaining the VPR are also described.